

PROPOSED COOPERATIVE GRAZING SYSTEM

WMA PASTURES

Map 1 illustrates WMA pasture layout. Pastures have been assigned names; From north to south, there is The Bench, Fir Island, West Fork, and Wineglass Pastures.

The Bench and Fir Island Pastures utilize the existing WMA internal fence to the west, which defines the eastern boundary of the elk winter range, as well as the existing WMA internal fence on the southern boundary of Fir Island Pasture. Eastern boundaries of these pastures are configured to accommodate the jutting nature of the existing willow community into these pastures. Remaining boundaries would be created via temporary electric fence.

West Fork and Wineglass Pastures utilize existing WMA fences as well. The north boundary of West Fork is the existing east-west internal fence. The west boundary of both pastures is the existing fence which defines the eastern boundary of the elk winter range. The south boundary of Wineglass Pasture is the WMA boundary fence. Remaining boundaries would be created via temporary electric fence.

In addition to efforts to provide ample and distributed water sources in each pasture, as well as equitable livestock carrying capacities, pasture boundary design considers locations where willows or aspen stands could possibly be fenced out with minimal effort. For example, the shared boundary between Wineglass and West Fork Pastures include both willow and aspen stands. During the year Wineglass is grazed, willows and aspen stands could easily be located just to the north of the pasture. During the next year when West Fork is grazed, they could easily be located just to the south of the pasture. By default, they essentially could be “fenced out”, and would not receive any grazing pressure by being excluded each year.

Pasture sizes have been developed using on-site field evaluations, combined with on-line NRCS Web Soil Survey website to create pastures that connect elk winter range with elk summer range, provide ample dependable watering sources, and provide equitable carrying capacities for a livestock herd for the months of June and July.

Each pasture would be grazed once every 4 years. Under this cycle, between 600 to 750 acres would be treated annually within the approximately 2,800-acre transition zone.

PRIVATE PASTURES

Map 1 also illustrates private pasture layout. There are 3 native, private pastures comprising approximately 2,100. From west to east, these pastures are named the Fred Burr, Quaking Aspen, and Bear Gulch Pastures, and are part of the McQueary Ranch. These pastures traditionally sustain a lot of elk winter use, especially the Fred Burr Pasture.

Each pasture would be grazed once every 3 years. Under this cycle, between 600 – 700 acres would be grazed annually within the approximate 2,100-acre winter range.

Map 1: WMA pastures and McQueary Ranch pastures.

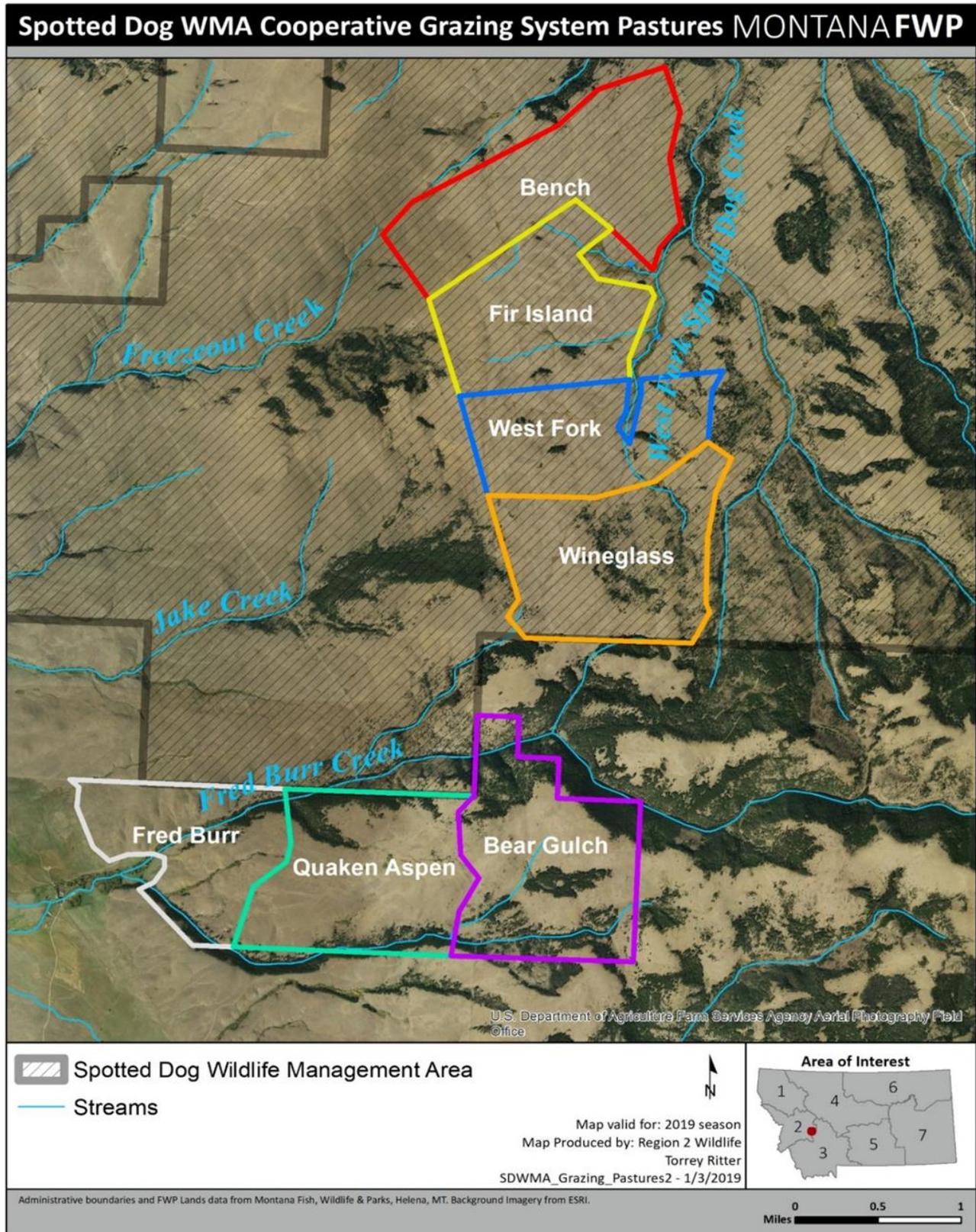


Figure 1. Layout of pastures on the McQueary Ranch (Fred Burr, Quaken Aspen, Bear Gulch) and on the Spotted Dog WMA (Bench, Fir Island, West Fork, and Wine Glass).

GRAZING SCHEDULES

The grazing schedule for the proposed pastures on the WMA is described in Table 1 under the “WMA Pastures” portion of the table. The “McQueary Ranch” portion of the table describes the proposed grazing schedule for the 3 private pastures that would be grazed cooperatively with these 4 WMA pastures.

Each year, livestock will graze on one pasture on the WMA during the growing season, and then graze on one pasture on the private land during the late season (post-seed-ripe), and all other pastures included in this proposed cooperative exchange of use grazing system are rested. Grazing will rotate to different pastures each year.

Should additional private land pastures be added to this cooperative exchange of use grazing system, the same type of schedule that includes grazing deferment and rest would be followed on those lands.

Table 1: Proposed schedule for the cooperative exchange of use grazing system.

WMA Pastures					McQueary Ranch		
Year	The Bench	Fir Island	West Fork	Wineglass	Fred Burr	Quaking Aspen	Bear Gulch
2019	Rest	Rest	Rest	6/1 - 7/31	Rest	Rest	8/1 - 9/30
2020	Rest	Rest	6/1 - 7/31	Rest	Rest	8/1 - 9/30	Rest
2021	Rest	6/1 - 7/31	Rest	Rest	8/1 - 9/30	Rest	Rest
2022	6/1 - 7/31	Rest	Rest	Rest	Rest	Rest	8/1 - 9/30
2023	Rest	Rest	Rest	6/1 - 7/31	Rest	8/1 - 9/30	Rest
2024	Rest	Rest	6/1 - 7/31	Rest	8/1 - 9/30	Rest	Rest

Growing Season Grazing: Livestock could graze at any time between June 1 and July 31.

Late Season Grazing: Livestock could graze at any time from August 1 until September 30, or when livestock are typically brought home for weaning and shipping.

Grazing Rest: Pastures would be completely rested from livestock grazing for the calendar year.